



MEMORANDUM

To: Department Directors
CC: Grant Managers
From: Cyndi Pederson, Director, Department of Cultural Affairs
Date: 7/6/2007
Re: Great Places Additional Consideration

Citizen Advisory Board:

Bill Menner
Chair
Grinnell

Robin Anderson
Vice-Chair
Mason City

David Bernstein
Sioux City

Claire Celsi
Des Moines

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Pleasant Hill

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Ames

Rita Vargas
Davenport

Beginning July 1, 2007, legislation regarding the Iowa Great Places program will take effect, impacting state grant programs. I wanted to send the information so that you could pass it along to all those in your department who manage grant programs in order to ensure participation in this valuable effort.

As you know, Iowa Great Places is a state program that encourages towns, cities, regions, etc., to bring together a diverse representation of their population to plan for a better future. These areas work on a strategic plan with various projects to enhance their area for both residents and visitors. As a place completes the planning process by showing evidence of their plan's potential feasibility and sustainability, Iowa Great Places connects them with various state resources to help local leaders complete the project.

Because these places must prove a community-wide visioning program before they become a Great Place, the Legislature directed State Agencies to apply additional consideration or additional points to any grant applications directly affecting their projects. The attached grant application is one of the qualifying Great Places applications.

For further detail, the Great Places Legislation (Senate File 306) reads:

Notwithstanding any restriction, requirement, or duty to the contrary, in considering an application for a grant, loan, or other financial or technical assistance for a project identified in an Iowa great places agreement developed pursuant to section 303.3c, a state agency shall give additional consideration or additional points in the application of rating or evaluation criteria to such applications.

This subsection applies to all applications filed within three years of the Iowa Great Places Board's selection of the place for participation in the program.

Attached is a copy of the cover letter that will be submitted with Great Places Grants. Please forward this information to your grant managers. Thank you for your help in this new process.

Iowa Department of
Cultural Affairs
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Des Moines, IA 50319

iowagreatplaces.gov